

Claims

1. A method of selecting a media proxy for transmitting a media stream along a path comprising,
 - (a) receiving a path setup request which specifies data endpoints for the path,
 - (b) traversing a nodular network model in a predetermined pattern dependent on the specified media endpoints,
 - (c) checking for a media proxy at each node traversed during traversal of the model, and
 - (d) selecting a media proxy found during traversal as the said proxy for the path using a predetermined selection policy.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of media proxies are linked to a node in a list ordered by preference and wherein the method further includes determining the availability of a selected proxy and selecting the next proxy in the ordered list if the selected proxy is unavailable.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of proxies are linked to a node in a list forming a pool of proxies of equal preference and wherein the method further includes determining the availability of the proxies and selecting a proxy in the pool using a predetermined strategy.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the said predetermined strategy is selected from a group containing random and round-robin strategies.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the linked proxy includes a local designation which indicates whether the proxy should be used only for paths between endpoints in a particular subset of the whole network, and wherein the step of selecting the proxy includes checking the local designation and if the proxy is designated as local, determining if the specified media endpoints fall within the said subset of the network.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the path setup request is received by a call agent.